

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-02 L-03 /053 W

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R 181745Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6769

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

UNCLAS QUITO 6026

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, EC

SUBJECT: CIVIL AVIATION: ECUADOREAN PRESS REPORTS ON COMING
NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S.

REF: A) QUITO 5994 B) QUITO 5676

1. MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, GENERAL MARCO ALMEIDA, TOLD THE ECUADOREAN PRESS ON AUGUST 14 THAT THE AVIATION AUTHORITIES OF ECUADOR AND THE UNITED STATES WILL BE MEETING DURING THIS MONTH WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF "CONSIDERING AND APPROVING A BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON CIVIL AVIATION POLICIES THAT WOULD BE TRULY EQUITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCITY...", ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE MINISTER IS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE GOE WILL BE SEEKING TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ECUADOREAN AIRLINE ECUATORIANA TO LAND IN NEW YORK. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT "THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CIVIL AVIATION, IN ORDER TO SOLVE WHATEVER PROBLEM MAY PRESENT ITSELF IN THE FUTURE, HAS EMPOWERED THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION TO AUTHORIZE THE FLIGHTS THAT ARE NECESSARY BY THE COMPANIES TO SATISFY THE SPACE AVAILABILITIES WHENEVER THERE IS PASSENGER DEMAND FROM AND TO ECUADOR."

2. THE PRESS REPORTS MADE NO MENTION OF THE U.S. REQUESTS
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WHICH ARE TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE COMING DISCUSSIONS.

3. COMMENT: IN GENERAL, THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS AS REPORTED IN THE PRESS WERE CLEARLY OPTIMISTIC AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON LANDING RIGHTS FOR ECUATORIANA IN NEW YORK, AND ON THE POSSIBILITIES FOR IMPROVING AIRLINE CONNECTIONS SO AS TO FACILITATE TOURISM TO ECUADOR. THE STATEMENT FOLLOWS UPON A RECENT SPATE OF CRITICISM IN THE ECUADOREAN PRESS REGARDING THE GOE'S CIVIL AVIATION POLICIES AND THEIR ADVERSE IMPACT ON TOURISM. BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AIR SCHEDULES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO06026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750285-0342
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750843/aaaablty.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 QUITO 5994, 75 QUITO 5676
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <16 MAR 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVIL AVIATION: ECUADOREAN PRESS REPORTS ON COMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH U.S.
TAGS: EAIR, EC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006